GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:380
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
POST HARVEST LOSS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of post harvesting wastage of fruits, vegetable and pulses during last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether unavailability of technology and lack of efficiency in supply chain are the reasons for the said wastage;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study to know the reasons for such wastage; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check the wastage?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Post harvest losses on an average ranges from 10 to 30 percent in fruits and vegetables and 8-10 percent in respect of pulses. State-wise and Year-wise authentic data is not available on the quantum of wastage.

(b): Though post harvest management technology is available in certain sectors, the supply chain inefficiency and inadequate infrastructure are the main causes for such wastages.

(c): The Directorate of Marketing and Inspection had earlier conducted a survey on `Estimation of marketable surplus and post harvest losses of Foodgrains` for the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99.

(d): The Government has launched several schemes which involves component to check wastage as under :

(i) For horticulture crops, the Government has launched two Centrally Sponsored Schemes `The Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States and Sikkim` has been launched during the year 2001-02 which was also extended to the Himalayan States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttrakhand during 2003-04. `The National Horticulture Mission` has been launched during 2005-06 for the remaining States. Both the schemes provide assistance for creating post-harvest infrastructure, including cold storage facilities as back-ended subsidy @ 33.33% of the project cost with a ceiling of Rs. 60.00 lakh per unit for hilly and tribal areas and @ 25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakh per unit for other states. During 2006-07, a new Component has been introduced under the National Horticulture Mission to facilitate setting up of Modern Terminal Markets in the country, which will have state-of-the-art cold chain and other infrastructure and will help in establishing an efficient supply chain right from the farm gate to the consumer/processor/exporter.

(ii) The National Horticulture Board(NHB) is also implementing programmes aimed at reducing the losses of horticulture produce through the schemes `Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/ Modernization of cold storage/storages for Horticulture Produce` having the same norms and `Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post-Harvest Management` providing back ended subsidy @ 20% of the total project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 30.00 lakhs for North-Eastern/Hilly/Tribal Areas States and Rs. 25.00 lakhs for other States.

(iii) The Ministry of Agriculture is also implementing a Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme, titled `Gramin Bhandaran Yojana` for Construction/Renovation of Rural Godowns in the country through the Directorate of Marketing & Inspection since 01.04.2001. One of the objectives of the Scheme is to provide scientific storage near the production centres (excluding municipal corporation areas) in order to reduce the losses.

(iv) A Central Sector Scheme, titled `Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization` has also been launched by the Ministry of Agriculture on 20.10.2004 to facilitate development of marketing infrastructure, market user common facilities, infrastructure for direct marketing of agricultural commodities, infrastructure for supply of production inputs and need-based services, infrastructure for e-trading, market intelligence etc. and mobile infrastructure for post harvest operations (excluding transport equipment) by providing credit-linked back-ended capital investment subsidy to entrepreneurs and direct assistance to State agencies.